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Agenda item 116

PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999

Draft decision submitted by the Chairman

Office accommodation at the Palais Wilson

The General Assembly,

(a) Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the office accommodation at the Palais Wilson,[1] the comments and observations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the oral statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on 16 March 1998;

(b) Approves the proposal of the Secretary-General to accept the offer of the Swiss authorities to place the office accommodation at the Palais Wilson in Geneva at the disposal of the United Nations;

(c) Notes that the cost estimates of the move to the Palais Wilson would amount to 5,085,000 United States dollars of which the contribution from the Government of Switzerland would amount to 3,846,000 dollars, and the balance of 1,959,000 dollars would be covered from existing resources available for the provision of accommodation at Geneva and thereby no additional resources would be required for the biennium 1998-1999, and that no resources would be diverted from any other approved budgetary allocations;

(d) Urges the Swiss authorities to ensure the extension of the rent-free arrangement beyond the year 2000, and requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts in this regard;

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[1] A/C.5/52/19 and Add.1 and Add.1/Corr.1.

[2] A/52/7/Add.4.

(e) Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session a cost-benefit analysis on the use of the conference rooms at both the Palais des Nations and the Palais Wilson.